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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/856,915	05/30/2001	Sau Tsien Lim	2001-0687A	5321
513	7590	09/13/2005	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 K STREET N. W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			SHIBRU, HELEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/856,915	LIM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SHIBRU HELEN	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 May 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3.) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/11/04&5/30/01.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims *y* are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Murase (US Pat. No. 6,366,732).

Regarding claim 1, Murase discloses bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus for a DVD Audio decoding system comprising:

a demultiplexer (see signal separating unit (86) in fig. 24) for demultiplexing a coded program stream (VOB in fig. 24) to elementary streams (video decoder (87) sub-picture decoder (88) and audio decoder (89) in fig. 24, and see col. 29 lines 20-34);

an audio still video unit bit buffer (see sub-picture decoder (88) and video decoder (87) in fig. 24) for storing demultiplexed audio still video program streams (see col. 29 lines 25-26 and lines 30-33, it is inherent that the audio is in the audio buffer for the decoding operation);

a bit stream buffer (see audio decoder (89)) for storing demultiplexed audio program stream (see col. 29 lines 30-32, it is inherent that the audio is in the audio buffer for the decoding operation), and

an audio still video object address pointer table (see system controlling unit (93)) storing address locations of the demultiplexed audio still video program streams (see fig. 12B PGC information, col. 30 lines 37-42, 55-62, col. 31 lines 57-66 and col. 32 lines 19-31 system controlling unit controls includes PGC information which stores the VOB address information table).

Regarding claim 2, Murase discloses audio still video object address pointer table further stores status information of the demultiplexed audio still video program streams (see fig. 26, col. 30 line 63-col. 31 line 33 system controlling unit includes highlight information for the selected PGC information).

Regarding claim 3, Murase discloses the demultiplexer comprises a means for demultiplexing the coded program stream to (VOB in fig. 24) to elementary streams (video decoder (87) sub-picture decoder (88) and audio decoder (89) in fig. 24, and see col. 29 lines 20-34), and

a means for switching (selecting units (122) and (123) in fig. 25) of writing to said audio still video unit bit buffer from said bit stream buffers (see sub-picture selecting unit (122) and audio selecting unit (123) and col. 29 lines 42-53), said switching occurring whenever input

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bitstream is audio still program stream (see col. 29 lines 48-57 and 63-65, the audio still video program input bit stream includes the sub-picture which is selected from the audio).

Regarding claim 4, Murase discloses audio still video unit buffer for storing the demultiplexed audio still video bit streams comprises: a means for storing elementary streams audio still video (see fig. 25 signal separating unit (86), video and sub-picture) : and a means for storing start address pointers of all or sub group of elementary streams of an audio still video unit (see col. 34 line 63-col. 35 line 14, it is inherent that the decoer (88) in fig. 24 stores the start and end address to color the selected sub-picture).

Claim 5 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 2 above.

Regarding claim 6, the limitations of claim 6 can be found in claims 2 and 4 above. Therefore claim 6 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 2 and 4.

Regarding claim 7, Murase discloses status information storing means comprises: a means for storing syntax error information (see fig.10A h5, instruction ‘00...this pack has no highlight information, see fig. 28 step 137, fig. 29 step 144, 147, 149, and col. 34 lines 10-19, the syntax is received based on the codes 00 and 01) and a means for storing other information (trick play) related to the audio still video unit (see col. 34 lines 10-12 and col. 43 lines 17-29).

Regarding claim 8, Murase discloses a bit stream buffering and demultiplexing method for a DVD Audio decoding system, comprising the steps of: demultiplexing a coded program stream (VOB in fig. 24) to elementary streams (video decoder (87) sub-picture decoder (88) and audio decoder (89) in fig. 24, and see col. 29 lines 20-34);

storing demultiplexed audio still video program stream (see fig. 24 picture mixing unit (90), see sub-picture decoder (88) and video decoder (87) in fig. 24, see col. 29 lines 25-26 and lines 30-33, it is inherent that the audio is in the audio buffer for the decoding operation);

storing demultiplexed audio program stream buffer (see audio decoder (89), col. 29 lines 30-32, it is inherent that the audio is in the audio buffer for the decoding operation),

storing address locations of the demultiplexed audio still video program streams (see fig. 12B PGC information, col. 30 lines 37-42, 55-62, col. 31 lines 57-66 and col. 32 lines 19-31 system controlling unit controls includes PGC information which stores the VOB address information table).

wherein the demultiplexing step includes a step of demultiplexing the audio still video unit program stream during a pre-loading to the audio still video unit bit buffer (see fig. 25 signal separating unit (86) which shows the separation of video sub-picture and audio before outputting to the decoders (87), (88) and (89)).

Regarding claim 9, the limitations of claim 9 can be found in claim 1. The demultiplexer is only one (signal separating unit in fig. 24). Therefore claim 9 is analyzed and rejected as discussed in claim 1 above.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yamamoto (US Pat. No. 5,805,537) discloses a demultiplexer that outputs video, sub-picture, PCI, and audio in a DVD player.

Kaneshige (US Pat. No. 6, 198, 874) discloses an information storage medium with one demultiplexer that output video, sub-picture and audio signals with a start address pointer.

Fujinami (US Pat. No. 6, 718, 119) discloses an apparatus that includes a video buffer an audio buffer and a graphic buffer and a decoding system for the demultiplexed stream.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHIBRU, HELEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7329. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's ^{primary} supervisor, NGOC Y. VU can be reached on 571 272 7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Helen Shibru
August 25, 2005



NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER